

The News Argus.

VOLUME 5, NO. 1

WINSTON-SALEM STATE COLLEGE, WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1966

Christmas Is a Big Holiday Influenced by Variety of Factors

By Pauline Bowman

On the 25th day of this month, thousands of people will celebrate Christmas — one of the most popular of all holidays. It has been many years since the first Christmas was proclaimed. Today, in a world which seems to be devoted primarily to traditional gift giving, there is little time to ponder what the holiday should really celebrate.

Christmas is a beautiful time of the year when streets and shop windows are invitingly decorated, with numerous items for that gift list. Ah! How nice it is to unwrap those packages of season's greetings. But, ooh! How it is for the giver to receive those Christmas bills, bills, bills! He has that well devised budget. He tries to ease his Christmas hang-over with alka-seltzer and aspirin.

The conception of a fictitious character called Santa Claus means more to some children (and adults) than the idea that this day is the festival celebrating the birth of Christ, the propheesized Savior of mankind. Preparations are made early for Dear Santa's midnight ride with his bundle of toys and his reindeer-drawn sled.

How did Santa Claus and the numerous other customs get into the day that is set aside for Christ in the first place? In fable he was first known as the patron-saint of children, St. Nicholas, who was the bishop of Myra, and died in 345 or 352. Santa Claus, of Dutch origin, is represented in popular fiction as the bearer of presents to children on Christmas eve. The old custom used to be for someone on December 5th to assume the costume of a bishop and distribute small gifts to "good children."

The anniversary of Christ's birth was not celebrated to any appreciable extent until the 3rd

century. January 6th and December 25th were generally adopted, first in the West, later in the East, as dates on which it should be celebrated in the 5th century. Theatres in the Roman Empire were ordered closed on Christmas as early as 400 but the day did not become a legal holiday until 534.

Many Christmas customs were transferred from pre-Christmas times. On January 6th, the Italian fairy Befana is supposed to fill the stockings of children with gifts. Our customs of the Christmas season are associated with that practice. So, it seems that a combination of customs and previous festivals have been interwoven into Christmas.

Even Santa Claus, as history states, was in existence before the date for Christmas was ever legally established.

Other customs of earlier festivals were transferred to the Christian holiday. For example:

(1) The Christmas Tree — the palm tree having twelve shoots, one to represent each month of the year, was used in the festival of Isis, an Egyptian goddess. The palm tree was modified in the celebration of December 25th by the substitution of the fir tree for it.

(2) Christmas cards — these date from the latter half of the 19th century.

Rams Win 2 Games In Whitaker Gym

Earl Monroe scored 126 points in two games as the Winston-Salem Rams hit triple figures twice in two games at the Whitaker Gymnasium.

Monroe scored 68 when the Rams topped the Fayetteville Broncos 112-97.

He sank 58 while the team was ripping the North Carolina College Eagles 115-96 before an overflow crowd.



Queen Dorothy Davis is flanked by seniors on stage.

Dorothy Davis Reigns As Miss W-S State

Dorothy Davis, a senior with a winning smile and a friendly voice, was crowned Miss Winston-Salem State in two ceremonies over the homecoming weekend. Dr. Kenneth R. Williams, president of the college, crowned her both times.

She was officially inaugurated in a coronation ceremony and

parade of queens Friday, Nov. 18 in a student assembly. Upon receiving her honor, she said:

"Long after this crown has been removed from my head, a weight will still be there — the weight of the honor my friends and fellow students have bestowed on me. I welcome, cherish and shall endeavor to uphold

this honorable weight."

Her escort was Michael Wright. Mrs. Davis was crowned a second time in a public ceremony during halftime of the homecoming game at Bowman Gray Stadium between the Rams and Fayetteville State.

Attendants to Miss WSSC were:

Patricia Holiday, a junior, escorted by Louis Turner; Shirley Brown, a sophomore, escorted by Aljerner Williams, and Gwendolyn Jones, a freshman, escorted by Bronville Scott.

Mrs. Davis was elected by the student body after an exciting campaign against Miss Holiday. Both conducted strenuous campaigns to win.

Other campus queens crowned at the coronation ceremony were:

Brenda Lowrey as Miss Student NEA, Erma Wiggins as Miss NAACP, Roberta Henry as Miss Brown Hall, and Gloria J. Tyson as Miss Ram.

John F. Lewis, chairman of the homecoming committee, presided over the ceremony. All the queens rode the next day in a tremendous "Tops in Homecoming" parade. A host of bands from various high schools joined the college bands of WSSC and Fayetteville in the parade and in pre-game ceremonies.

Other features of homecoming were a campus dawn dance before the football game and the victory ball.

Sylvia Sprinkle Recalls Happy Days In India

"The most rewarding experience that I will ever encounter," are the words Miss Sylvia Sprinkle uses to describe her stay in India during the summer.

Sylvia, a senior of Winston-Salem State College, was among a group of eight students who traveled to India to participate in the Experiment in International Living program.

"India is a nation of poverty, with extremely low living standards, with absolutely no sanitary system, but a nation with very hospitable people", states Sylvia. "As in any other poverty-stricken country, there are exceptions; however, a rich person in India may be compared to a high middle class American", she added.

Fortunately for Sylvia she lived with one of the wealthy families of India. Her father owned five factories. Her family consisted of a mother, father, four sisters, two brothers, an aunt and uncle. She was the only member of her group who slept indoors.

Sylvia lived in the main house which consisted of two guest rooms, a suite for her aunt and



Sylvia Sprinkle with two faculty members, Dr. Sandarchari and Dr. Singh.

uncle, a drawing room, and a bedroom for her parents. There was a second house for her Indian brothers and sisters, and a house for the kitchen and the cooks.

Sylvia visited nine states while she was in India. Concerning her travels, she has this to say: "By traveling, I learned to appreciate the United States more. I learned a lot that I should have known, but didn't. I now have a better understanding of people, and I want to travel more."

When asked what impressed her most about India, Sylvia stated: "The people impressed me the most. Their habits and customs are so different from ours, yet they are so friendly."

Sylvia gives this advice to future travelers abroad: "Visit the people of a nation or country — not just the historical sites. You only learn about life in a country by getting to know the people in that country."

Miss Sprinkle gave the student body an exciting pictorial and word account of her stay in India at a Wednesday morning chapel program.